



B O R O U G H O F H A R T L E P O O L.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE BOROUGH

For The Year Ended 31st. December, 1943.

J. W. A. RODGERS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

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B O R O U G H O F H A R T L E P O O L

Members of the Public Health, Housing and
Maternity and Child Welfare Committees, 1942-3.

Chairman - Councillor C. Chambers.
Deputy Chairman - Councillor J. Stevenson.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor T. H. Pailor, J.P.).

Alderman F. J. Carr.

Councillors T. T. Aird.

J. Beattie.

G. Davison.

E. S. Gardners.

J. B. Graham.

F. Harrison.

W. M. Robertson.

Mrs. W. Smith. } Serving only

S. King } on the Maternity

H. Lightfoot } and Child Welfare

G. Davison } Committee.

Health Department,

Frederic Street,

HARTLEPOOL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health,
Housing and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Hartlepool for the year 1943. This report is again statistical showing that in spite of war conditions, with the exception of Tuberculosis, which is becoming a black spot on our records, the health of the community has been maintained. The Infantile Mortality figures have improved immensely, falling from 142 to 91, but I can see little hope of a further and sustained reduction until the overcrowding and bad housing conditions of Hartlepool are improved. Efforts, however, are still being made to reduce this figure by the provision of Corporation Maternity Beds, Home Helps and facilities for the care of Premature Infants, etc.

The Birth Rate has again increased and the Death Rate reduced, giving figures of 20 and 14 per 1,000 respectively. On paper Hartlepool should be a prosperous and thriving community but instead the Registrar General's figure for the population is most disturbing. Again, only one factor is to blame, viz. housing conditions.

During this year there have been no serious epidemics and the reduction in the amount of Scabies and other contagious diseases recorded last year has been maintained. Ante-Natal and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics have again functioned satisfactorily, the attendance figures being approximately the same as last year.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all for their

co-operation and assistance during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. A. RODGERS.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer
and Medical Officer, Infant Welfare Centre:

J. W. A. RODGERS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector:

G. A. WARD, M.S.I.A.

Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.
Certificate of R.S.I. and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

E. V. ABBEY, M.S.I.A. (PART-TIME)

Certificate of R.S.I. and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.

Health Visitors and School Nurses:

MISS F. MITCHELL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

MRS. H. J. UNDERWOOD, S.R.N., S.C.N., H.V. Cert.
(resigned 5.5.43).

MISS W. STEVENSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
(commenced 24.5.43)

MISS W. FICK, S.R.N.

Clerks:

MISS I. BLENKIN

MRS. N. JONES (resigned 30.10.43)

MR. J. J. PRYDE (commenced part-time
duties 1.11.43).

MRS. E. OSBON.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Area (Acres) ...	...	...	...	1,841
Population (Census, 1931) ...	...	...	...	20,545
Rateable Value..	...	...	...	£70,382.
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	£258. 17. 10

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
1. <u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	Legitimate	136	146	282
	Illegitimate	6	7	13
	Total	142	153	295

Birth Rate- 20.33

2. <u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	Legitimate	4	4	8
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
	Total	4	4	8

Rate per 1,000 total births- 27.11

3. <u>DEATHS</u>	...	125	86	211
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Crude Death Rate- 14.5

4. NUMBER OF WOMEN DYING IN, OR IN CONSEQUENCE OF CHILDBIRTH-

from Sepsis	...	0
" other causes	...	0

Rate per 1,000 total Births- .0

Number of deaths of Infants under 1 year- 27

5. DEATH RATE of INFANTS UNDER 1 Year of age per 1,000 live births- 91.5

6. DEATHS from Measles (all ages)-

"	"	Whooping Cough	...	1
"	"	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2	
"	"	Influenza	...	3
"	"	Diphtheria	...	-
"	"	Cancer	...	29

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1933-1943.

Year	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality.
-1933	20.8	15.0	93.6
-1934	18.9	14.9	57.2
-1935	18.8	16.3	86.8
-1936	21.2	15.41	60.4
-1937	19.5	14.14	67.4
-1938	20.0	15.6	55.2
-1939	18.5	14.5	75.0
-1940	19.6	17.3	73.2
-1941	17.08	16.74	68.0
-1942	18.9	15.9	142.3
-1943	20.33	14.5	91.5

BIRTHS.

During the year the number of live births registered was 295, comprising 142 males and 153 females and of this number

6 males and 7 females were illegitimate. The Birth Rate shows an increase, the figure being 20.33 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 18.9 in 1942.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths of residents belonging to the Borough, after making allowances for inward and outward transfers, was 211, comprising 125 males and 86 females, which gives a crude Death Rate of 14.5.

The chief causes of death during the year were diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels 40; Cancer 29; all forms of Tuberculosis 21 and Pneumonia 18.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 27 as compared with 40 in 1942.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Disease	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	Total under 4 wks.	1 mth. & under 3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	Total.
Pneumonia	-	-	3	-	3	2	3	-	1	9
Spina Bifida	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Prematurity	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Respiratory Failure	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Inanition	4	-	-	-	4	1	1	-	-	6
Atelectasis	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
Congenital Heart Disease	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Fit due to Gastric Upset	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Convulsions	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Spinal Meningocele	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
TOTALS	13	1	3	-	17	3	5	1	1	27

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1943.

Cause of Death	Males	Females
All causes	125	86
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	8	7
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	5	1
Syphilitic Diseases	2	2
Influenza	2	1
Measles	-	-
Acute Polio-Myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	-	-
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	-	-
Cancer of buc; cav; & oesoph; (M) uterus (F)	1	4
Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	6	2

Causes of Death (Contd).

Causes of Death	Males.	Females.
Cancer of Breast	-	4
Cancer of all other sites	5	7
Diabetes	-	1
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	7	2
Heart Disease	26	14
Other diseases of circ. system	2	3
Bronchitis	9	6
Pneumonia	13	5
Other resp. diseases	5	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	-
Appendicitis	-	-
Other digve. diseases	-	-
Nephritis	2	4
Puer. & post-abort. sepsis.	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	-
Premature birth	2	6
Con. mal. birth inj. infant. diseases	4	3
Suicide	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	2	2
Other Violent Causes	7	1
All other causes	12	9

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

At the beginning of the report a list is given showing all the officers connected with the Health Services of the Borough.

2. SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examination in connection with infectious disease are carried out at the College of Medicine, Newcastle-On-Tyne, by arrangement with Durham County Council.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Diseases - Infectious Diseases are removed by motor Ambulance belonging to West Hartlepool Isolation Hospital.

The Town Ambulance, used for all cases except those above, was called out 355 times and the fees accrued amounted to £92. 13. 0

(c) Nursing in the Home.

Provisions are as for previous years.

3. MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

Financial Aid has been granted to Maternity cases wishing to enter Hartlepool's Hospital Maternity Ward in 7 cases.

Cases requiring hospital treatment are also admitted to Howbeck Hospital through the Public Assistance Committee.

Puerperal Pyrexia and Puerperal Fever cases are admitted to Horbeck Hospital and also to West Hartlepool Isolation Hospital.

ANTE NATAL CLINICS.

These Clinics are held as previously reported at West View and Frederic Street Clinics. 163 women attended during the year for Ante-Natal examination, this being a slight increase on the figure of 149 for last year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The Borough is supplied with water by the Hartlepool Gas and Water Company and the supply, though hard, is abundant and of good quality.

The following is a report of the Public Analyst on a sample of water sent for analysis:-

				Parts per 100,000
Chlorine as Chlorides	...	...	...	17.3000
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	.1353
Ammonia	...	...	...	.0073
Albuminous Ammonia	...	...	...	.0038
Oxygen Absorption	...	...	...	.0372
Injurious Metals	...	...	...	None
Total Solid Matter dried @ 100° C.	...	...	...	103.0000
Temporary Hardness	...	23.8	degrees.	
Permanent Hardness	...	25.6		

Colour of sample on Hazen Scale... 3.
 Appearance of Sample in 2 foot tube ... Not quite clear.
 Odour when heated to 50° C. ... Faint Vegetable.

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION.

Minute deposit from $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon consisting almost entirely of earthy matter with some particles of vegetable matter - satisfactory.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 37° C.
 after 72 hours ... 3 in 2 ml.
 Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 20-22° C.
 after 72 hours ... 7 in 2 ml.
 Presumptive B. Coli Test at 37° C. after
 72 hours ... Negative in 100 ml.
 Clostridium Welchii Test @ 44° C. ... Negative in 40 ml.

OBSERVATIONS.

The sample, so far as chemical analysis is concerned, is of normal composition and therefore no excess of nitrogenous compounds associated with undesirable drainage, while the bacteriological examination shows that the sample is of a high order of purity in this respect.

The sample is of good and wholesome quality for human consumption.

Signed:- WILLIAM J. H. STOCK.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

- (1)(a) Total Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts 194
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 823
- (2)(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932.. 47
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 48
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 8
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 151

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal

Notice
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 145

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

A- Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 152
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) by owners... .. 6
 - (b) by local authority in default of owners. 1

B- Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 2
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) by owners.. 3
 - (b) by local authority in default of owners. -

C- Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders -

D- Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 6
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit -

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. - Overcrowding.

- (a)(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year. ... 505

- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein... 505
 (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 2373
 new
 (b) Number of/cases of overcrowding reported during
 the year ... -
 (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during
 the year ... -
 (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases.... -
 (d) Particulars of any such cases in which dwelling-houses
 have again become overcrowded after the local authority
 have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding
 (abated after informal action had been taken)... -
 (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding
 conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health
 may consider it desirable to report ... -

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table gives the number of notifications
 and removals to Hospital of cases of Infectious Disease, and
 also the number of deaths:-

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Number of Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-
Diphtheria	6	5	-
Scarlet Fever	26	11	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargia	-	-	-
Infantile Paralysis	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	1
Measles	45	-	-

AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over	Total
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	6
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	6	11	3	2	2	-	-	-	26
Enteric Fever (including Para- Typhoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia (Primary & Influenzal)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(contd. over)

Disease	Under											65 & over	Total
	1.yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-		
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neo-natorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infantile Paralysis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	1	5	12	8	12	5	-	1	1	-	-	-	45

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 26 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year and 11 of these were admitted to Hospital, only those cases where satisfactory isolation could be maintained remaining at home.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 6 cases of Diphtheria notified during the year, there being no deaths from these cases. 5 cases were admitted to Hospital.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Up to December, 1943 50.44% of the pre-school children in Hartlepool had been immunised against Diphtheria. A scheme has been put into operation whereby medical practitioners in the area can give protection to children at the expense of the Corporation and the position is now improving.

MEASLES.

Only 45 cases of measles were notified during the year. No deaths occurred from this disease.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Two cases were notified during the year and 1 death occurred from this disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Treatment of Tuberculosis in the area must be regarded as largely unsatisfactory.

It is general knowledge that a number of Sanatorium beds have been given up to service and air raid casualties and it is also appreciated that there is great difficulty in obtaining personnel for nursing and domestic duties, yet, when there are disused Military Camps with cooking facilities available, it is ridiculous to keep early cases of Tuberculosis six months or even longer waiting for a bed, while advanced cases have little hope of getting one at all.

It is to be hoped that the position will soon improve.

27 cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, which is the same as in 1942. The total deaths were 14, which is an increase of one over the number for 1942.

SCABIES.

Cases of Scabies were treated as previously at the First Aid Posts. Altogether 267 individual cases of Scabies were treated during the year.

The following table shows the number of new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis for the Borough of Hartslepool during 1943.

AGE PERIODS..	NEW CASES				TOTAL DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
5 - 15 "	2	1	2	1	-	-	1	-
15-25 "	2	2	2	-	1	3	1	-
25-35 "	1	3	1	-	-	2	-	-
35-45 "	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-55 "	2	2	-	-	4	-	-	-
55-65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	10	10	5	2	6	5	2	1

The following is a comparative table of the number of new cases and number of deaths from Tuberculosis over the past 8 years.

	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.	1937.	1936.
Total New Cases	27	27	25	35	38	33	31	29
Total Deaths	14	15	24	19	14	23	18	17

INTERNAL MORTALITY.

It is recorded with pleasure that no deaths occurred during 1943.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

Number of Legitimate Births	...	...	...	282
Number of Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	15
Number of Still Births	...	...	...	8
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	20.33
Number of infants under 1 year:-				
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	26
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	1
				27

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:-

Legitimate ...	...	88.2
Illegitimate ...	...	3.3

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES,

YEARS	HARTLEPOOL	ENGLAND & WALES
1934	67.2	59
1935	86.8	57
1936	60.4	59
1937	67.4	58
1938	55.2	63
1939	75.	50
1940	73.2	55
1941	68.	59
1942	142.3	49
1943	91.5	49

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Work in the Child Welfare Clinics progressed satisfactorily, the numbers being much the same as last year.

The following table shows the amount of work done in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare work during the year:-

Total attendances made during the year:-	3713
1. By children under 1 year of age	2889
2. By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years ...	824
Average number of children attending per session..	72
Total Number of children who made first attendances ...	391
1. By children under 1 year of age	306
2. By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years ...	85

Number of children who received Artificial Sunlight Treatment:-

1. Children under 1 year of age	11
2. Children between the ages of 1 and 5 years... ..	32

DEFECTS FOUND IN CHILDREN ATTENDING THE CLINIC.

DISEASE	Number under 1 year	Number over 1 year.	DISEASE	Number under 1 year	Number over 1 year
Enteritis	10	-	Umbilical Hernia	3	-
Eczema	2	2	Injury to face	1	-
Constipation	5	-	Hare Lip & Cleft	-	-
Tongue Tied	1	-	Palate	1	-
Jaundice	1	-	Injury after fall	-	1
Talipes	1	-	Pinks Disease	1	-
Impetigo	1	-	Flat Feet	-	2
Convulsions	-	1	Cardiac	-	1
Phimosis	-	1	Malnutrition	-	1
Rickets	-	5	Abcess of Leg	1	-
Otorrhoea	1	1	Scabies	5	2
Conjunctivitis	4	1	Ulcerated mouth	3	-
Injury to arm	1	1	Dermatitis	2	2
Spina Bifida	-	2	Pyloric Stenosis	1	-
Debility	3	1	Whooping Cough	5	5
			Worms	6	5

Number of visits paid by Health Visitors:-

(a)	To Expectant Mothers	...	First Visits	52
			Total Visits	55
(b)	To children under 1 year..	...	First Visits	350
			Total Visits	1487
(c)	To children between 1 & 5 years.		Total Visits	2272

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Health Department,
Frederic Street,
LIVERPOOL.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health and Housing Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report, being the fourth summary report, on the work of the Sanitary Department for the year 1943.

The compilation of certain registers and the revision of other registers mentioned last year was completed but pressure of work has prevented, during 1943, the extension of the review to other sections.

With regard to Housing, there is nothing new that I can add to my remarks in previous reports. For the last two years I have stressed the dilapidated state of a lot of the property in the town and it is hoped that the Council will pursue a vigorous policy for the requisitioning and reconditioning of unoccupied properties as is provided for in the Ministry of Health Circular, 2871, for the General Scheme for the Repair of Houses. It is not suggested that all vacant properties will prove adaptable, but the majority of such properties may prove suitable, with a consequent improvement in the appearance of the town, apart from the additional housing accommodation that will thus be made available.

With regard to the arrangements contained in the Circular designed to protect immobile labour and to eliminate unessential work by the issue of a certificate of essentiality in respect of property repairs, the notice of all local builders was drawn to the arrangements, but they had not been utilised up to the close of the year.

During the year the question of rat infestation again assumed some prominence and it is to be regretted that the suggested procedure shall be by delegation of powers by the County Council. It is more than probable that on the termination of the emergency the delegated powers will be withdrawn. It is difficult to appreciate why the powers, like the rats, are not universal in

their application for, in a Port area, rats are ever present and remote control has nothing to commend it.

If all local authorities had adequate powers at all times to deal with conditions arising in their district then the duplication of personnel and functions in times of national emergency would, at the least, be reduced to a minimum.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. A. WARD.

HEALTH AND HOUSING INSPECTION.

194 houses were inspected during the year for defects under Housing and Public Health Acts and a total of 823 inspections were made for the purpose. The action taken is summarised below:-

Informal Notices served.....	129
" " complied with.....	126
Second or Reminder Notices sent.....	49
Statutory Notices served.....	7
" " complied with.....	9
Nuisance abated without service of notice....	19
Letters of warning sent.....	3

It is still only possible to require the execution of essential repairs but there has been no further deterioration in the supply of labour. The position generally remains reasonably satisfactory and the close liaison maintained with the local builders ensure that, generally speaking, urgent nuisances have prior attention, though delay occurs at times with regard to other repairs.

Notice of appeal to the County Court was given in respect of a Statutory Notice under the Housing Act, 1936, but after a joint inspection of the property with the appellant's solicitor and builder the appeal was withdrawn and the terms of the notice complied with.

With regard to materials, as I anticipated last year, the supply of manufactured cast iron articles, particularly W.C. cisterns and washing coppers, proved insufficient to meet the normal demand. The attention of the appropriate department of the Ministry of Works was drawn to the difficulties being experienced. By the end of the year the supply of W.C. cisterns only was reasonable. These articles, which are under 3 cwt. per article, are supplied free of licence on a quota system but it appears that those being supplied are not reaching the ordinary builder.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The outstanding repairs called for in the Nuisance Order under section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of the Fish Meal Factory, were carried out early in the year. Subsequently, with the full co-operation of the proprietors, an improved type of spray was fitted and their capacity twice increased to the 12" fume pipes from the concentrators. It is very doubtful if it is possible to further increase the spray capacity. This gave additional control over offensive vapour but I am convinced that effective control will never be obtained until adequate means of condensation and deodorisation are

installed. The present method, though ingenious, cannot be made effective in warm weather, or with bad offal - and under war time conditions offal is often very offensive on delivery.

All other premises were maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition during the year and informal action only had to be taken to remedy minor defects.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The total number of meat and food inspections carried out numbered 67 and 14 carcasses of pigs (at pig clubs) were examined. One pig was suffering from Swine Erysipelas.

The total weight of foodstuffs condemned during the year amounted to 2 tons, 10 cwt. 5 stone 3 lbs., a considerable increase over last year. No deterioration in the quality of food was found as the increase of weight in the condemned food was due to fish (32 cwts.) and meat (2 cwts. 30 lbs.) as against a total of 10½ cwts. for these commodities last year. The principal cause of condemnation of meat was bone taint in imported meat. A consignment of prunes weighing 4 cwts. 53 lbs. was also found to be unfit.

As before, liaison was maintained with the Food Office as to food found to be unfit, pigs slaughtered privately on a licence from the Food Office and to the salvage of food.

Milk and Dairies, etc.

The condition of dairies and milk shops in the town remained satisfactory. One wholesale purveyor of milk gave up business.

The cowsheds situated in the town were found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition. The drainage system to the farm premises of three smallholder dairymen, comprising one block of buildings, had to be extensively reconstructed and provided with a septic tank. An adequate water supply was provided to one of the dairies.

Informal action secured the remedying of several minor causes of complaint.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

No graded milks are produced within the town.

The sale of the only supply of Tuberculin Tested milk was discontinued as the samples failed to reach the prescribed standards.

The results of bacteriological examination of graded milk are shown below:-

	Number.	Complied.	Not Comply.	B. Coli.
• Tuberculin Tested	5	3	2	2
Pasteurised	22	15	7	1

Two of the unsatisfactory samples were of milk produced locally and the matter was referred to the Chief Sanitary Inspector of the adjoining Borough for remedial action. The other adverse samples were in respect of milk pasteurised out of the town.

Bacteriological Examination of Raw Milk.

37 samples of ungraded milks were submitted for bacteriological examination and, with the exception of milk from three sources, the results were highly satisfactory.

<u>Bacterial Count.</u>	<u>Classification.</u>	<u>No. of Samples.</u>	<u>B. Coli. found.</u>
Below 200,000	Good	22	10 w
Over 200,000 and less than 500,000	Moderate	5	4
over 500,000	Bad	10	8

w B. Coli. present in only 1 tube in 5 samples.

One local producer whose milk was the subject of several adverse reports ultimately effected considerable improvement.

A wholesale purveyor in an adjoining area, about whose milk representations had been made to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, eventually went out of business.

B. Coli. was present in each sample of accomodation milk submitted during the year, though the bacteriological result showed improvement as the year progressed.

This accomodation milk, however, is sold by nearly every dairyman in the town.

It was unsatisfactory samples from these sources that accounted for 11 samples of milk with a count in excess of 200,000 and the presence of B. Coli. in 16 samples.

21 samples satisfied the microbiological test for the presence of T.B. and 5 of these samples were of accomodation milk.

Restaurant Kitchens.

Particular attention was paid during the year to canteen kitchens attached to the various works in the town. It was agreed with the District Factory Inspector that the provision and sufficiency of such canteens remained the responsibility of the Factory Department, under the appropriate regulations, as distinct from the hygienic arrangements normally the responsibility of the Public Health Authority. It is to be regretted that in the establishment of such canteens, even though their establishment is called for under the Defence Regulations and therefore may not be subject to Public Health legislation, the advice of Public Health officers is not sought.

Generally speaking, all such canteens were well maintained from the point of view of cleanliness. In one case considerable additional lighting and ventilation, together with steam hoods and an extractor fan, was called for and the work was in hand by the end of the year. In another case, under the auspices of the Ministry of Supply, the internal drainage arrangements were very unsatisfactory, comprising concrete channels leading to inside gully traps, which took all the kitchen drainage water. This contravenes section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, but the buildings had been completed and put into use before any information reached this Department.

Rat infestation of certain of these premises proved troublesome and rat proofing and extermination had to be carried

out, together with the provision of rat-proof food containers.

The management of other 'dining rooms', near the Works, had to cope with a demand not originally anticipated, but gave no cause for complaint. Proper facilities are, however, lacking. The property is included in a proposed clearance area and the structural condition of the buildings makes any capital expenditure uneconomical.

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Precaution against contamination of food.

A successful prosecution was taken against the occupier of a grocer's shop in the town for depositing food intended for sale in a dirty room and the dirty condition of the shop floor. A fine of 20/- was inflicted in each case, with costs.

The occupier was subsequently persuaded to move into larger and more suitable premises and it is interesting to note that immediately after his removal 232 rats were caught in the old shop premises, comprising three small rooms and a yard.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Arising out of a complaint and owing to extensions of works premises, the whole of the sanitary conveniences at all the principal works in the town were reviewed during the year and the notice of the managements drawn to the necessary repairs and improvements required.

In respect of one factory of a scattered nature, which was being extended, a notice was served calling for the enlargement of the existing W.C. and Urinal accommodation and the provision of an additional 3 W.C.'s and a Urinal in three different parts of the works.

At an old factory the majority of the urinals were modernised and provided with adequate screening, flushing cisterns and cleansing facilities. The sanitary accommodation is by pail closets and a notice had to be served to secure the replacement of one block of dilapidated unusable conveniences by a new block of water closets and a urinal drained to a septic tank. A sewer cannot be made available. By the end of the year the principle of conversion of the whole of the pail closets in the factory to the water carriage system had been agreed on, the block in question to be dealt with forthwith and the remainder as circumstances permit.

At a third factory similar work was initiated to all the urinals. One block of W.C.'s was enlarged and another rebuilt so as to provide the number required in accordance with the regulations, this work was nearing completion by the year end.

A regrettable feature is the considerable misuse and abuse of even the most modern type of fittings provided, by workmen who would, it is hoped, never dream of using such habits in their own homes. This misuse is, if anything, encouraged by the lack of control and routine cleansing by various managements who, when they have provided the conveniences, forthwith seem to lose interest therein.

It is to be noted that whilst the definition of 'sanitary conveniences' in the Factory Act, 1937 includes 'privies', the Act gives no assistance in the conversion of this type of convenience as is provided for in the repealed sections of the Public Health Act, 1937.

CIVIL DEFENCE.

Prevention of Vermin Infestation.

The demand for routine disinfection of bedding at various types of A.R.P. Depots was maintained during the year and the arrangements outlined last year remain in force. Routine disinfection of certain fire-watchers quarters proved to be desirable and has been carried out regularly. The need was principally brought about by the introduction of undesirable fire-watchers from the central pool to make up deficiencies in the various schemes.

Following a complaint, in respect of body lice, two suspected persons were dealt with under the Scabies Order and found to be infested. It is interesting to note that both men refused to submit themselves for medical examination and that section 85 of the Public Health Act, 1936 gives no power to call for medical examination suspected verminous persons, but only to enforce cleansing of known verminous persons. Proceedings instituted under Defence Regulations 33A, for an offence against Article 2(2) of the Scabies Order, 1941 resulted in an undertaking to appear for medical examination, which undertaking was kept, the Court having no power to order an examination.

Emergency Water Supplies.

12 samples of water from emergency drinking water tanks were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. 5 samples were adversely reported on, principally for dust contamination, and 4 tanks were successfully cleaned out and repairs executed to another.

Air Raid Shelters.

Routine inspection of shelters was maintained during the year and all types of shelters continue to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

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Revision of Regulations

The demand for better regulation of the civil service has been growing for some time. It is not only the public but also the civil service itself which is becoming more and more conscious of the need for a more efficient and economical system. The present regulations are based on the assumption that the civil service is a mere machine, and that the only way to improve it is to make it run more smoothly. But the civil service is not a machine; it is a human institution, and it must be treated as such. It must be able to adapt itself to the changing needs of the government, and it must be able to attract and retain the best talent. The present regulations are based on the assumption that the civil service is a mere machine, and that the only way to improve it is to make it run more smoothly. But the civil service is not a machine; it is a human institution, and it must be treated as such. It must be able to adapt itself to the changing needs of the government, and it must be able to attract and retain the best talent.

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